

Carers Survey

The biennial Carers Survey will be issued to a sample of carers across Cambridgeshire in early October, in line with statutory requirements issued by the Department of Health. The survey will help the Council and the Department to learn more about whether services received by carers are helping them in their role and their life outside of caring; and to gain the perception of services provided to the cared for person. It is also used locally to inform service delivery and to monitor and develop standards. The survey will be sent to approximately 1250 carers in Cambridgeshire who are over the age of 18, and have had their circumstances assessed or reviewed within the last 12 months. The sample will include carers across all social care service areas.

I can provide a copy of the survey, email - [john.reynolds @ntlworld.com](mailto:john.reynolds@ntlworld.com)

Helping people to plan their social care support

As part of their Self-Directed Support, people putting together their Support Plans are encouraged to think outside of traditional social care services. Cambridgeshire.net (www.cambridgeshire.net) includes details of more than 5,000 clubs and groups, events and days out, volunteering opportunities, courses, regular activities and providers of social care in Cambridgeshire.

It can be used to find things to do, get involved in the local community or find details of services for older people and people who have a disability, and lists home care providers who can offer support and personal care options. People can visit Cambridgeshire.net directly to find what they need, or Cambridgeshire's adult social care website Your Life, Your Choice (www.yourlifeyourchoice.org.uk) includes direct links through to Cambridgeshire.net listings for local courses; day centres and luncheon clubs; sport, social and leisure activities.

Dilnot funding proposals

It is looking increasingly likely that the Coalition Government will include reform of social care funding in its Care and Support Reform Bill, which is currently available in draft form. This could see implementation of the Dilnot Commission's proposals, which include capping the amount that people would have to pay for social care, and raising the means-test threshold to £100,000, from its current level of £23,250. These proposals would be investigated as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review in 2014. Changes to the funding system for social care would provide significantly more clarity for councils, providers and service users. Officers are currently working on a draft response to the Draft Care and Reform Bill.

I can provide a copy of the a briefing on the Bill and White Paper, Caring for our futures, email - [john.reynolds @ntlworld.com](mailto:john.reynolds@ntlworld.com).

CYPS Strategy

A new overarching strategy for Children and Young People's Services in Cambridgeshire has been prepared. The strategy describes our ambitions, objectives and priorities for children and young people and provides an overview of key areas of work for the next year.

Cambridgeshire faces significant challenges from the growing and diversifying population in the county, coupled with the continued existence of too wide a variation in the outcomes for vulnerable children and those from disadvantaged backgrounds. In responding to these challenges our priorities for 2012/13 are:

- Strategic Objective 1 - Improving learning and health outcomes for every child and young person
- Strategic Objective 2 - Narrowing the gap in learning and health outcomes for vulnerable children and young people
- Strategic Objective 3 - Keeping children and young people safe at home and in their Communities

Common Assessment Framework

The CAF is key to Cambridgeshire's Early Help Offer for children, young people and their families. Currently just under 3,000 children and young people have open Frameworks, and will be accessing support from agencies including Locality Teams, Children's Centres, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHs) and the School Nursing Service.

Work is underway to integrate the referral and allocation pathways for both School Nursing and CAMHs with the pathways for the 14 Locality Teams, which should further strengthen multi agency working and information sharing between the agencies, resulting in better outcomes for children and young people. Following a recent review into how we use the CAF in Cambridgeshire, the following actions are now underway:

- Finding and implementing a secure electronic CAF system (likely to be Summer 2013+)
- The development of an interim e-form CAF, which will be accessed via the County Council website. This will make the process quicker when needs are simple and straightforward and allow a more holistic family approach rather than the current "one child per CAF"
- Simplification of the paperwork, so the form doesn't become a barrier for children and young people to access the services they need
- Replicating across the County examples of innovative working and good practice, including the way Locality Allocation and Review Meetings operate
- To offer greater support in areas of highest need, and also for practitioners undertaking the assessments or taking on the role of Lead Professional
- To ensure a smooth transition between CAF and specialist assessments for children and their families

Development in Northwest Cambridge

At the August meeting, the Joint Development Control Committee gave a resolution to grant planning permission for the University's proposed development in Northwest Cambridge, subject to the successful conclusion of a S106 agreement. This 3,000 home development, will include 1,500 key worker homes (for University Staff) in place of traditional social housing. A primary school and dedicated early years provision will be included in the first phase of development. Indications are that development will commence in early 2013, with the first occupations from early 2014. It is currently planned to open the new school in September 2015.

Chesterton Children's Centre Ofsted inspection

Chesterton Children's Centre received a full Ofsted inspection in July and achieved an overall satisfactory grade. There were several features that achieved a 'good' grade including:

- The extent to which children are safe and protected;
- The quality of care, guidance and support offered to families
- The effectiveness of the centre's policy; procedures and work with key agencies in safeguarding children
- Partnership working.

Ofsted quoted a typical user's response, "I don't think the staff could be more helpful. They go out of their way to support us and our children". Further improvement was suggested in the following areas:

- Augment approaches to reach ethnic minority groups;
- Build on improving data;
- Enhance the management by merging the advisory boards;
- Use the voice of the parent forum increasingly to shape the centre's direction.

Traffic Control Systems

We are investigating issues around the possibility of switching off traffic signals in some Cambridgeshire locations. All the associated problems, especially safety, need to be taken into account before any progress on streets can be made.

Cambridge Science Park station

Ecological surveys are expected to be complete in September. The agreement with Network Rail has been signed allowing discussion of technical details with the rail industry to formally commence. The Department for Transport are reviewing our submitted Business Case and repayment model. Design work is underway on road access and busway extension.

Ely Crossing

The project was recently considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, who supported Bypass option B. Cabinet will consider the options and impacts in September. The next step for public engagement is scheduled to be pre-application consultation (Sept and Oct 2012). Network Rail are working well at a technical and practical level. Their possessions team are looking to bring together planned rail improvement work in the area with our possible possession dates (subject to Cabinet decision). English Heritage continues to work to minimise the impact on the heritage setting of the cathedral. They favour the underpass option as it is the only option which does not impact the cathedral setting, and have provided their response to the settings study reported to Scrutiny.

Waste PFI and Strategy

The tests carried out to demonstrate Full Service Acceptance (FSA) of the MBT facility were passed in July and the certificate to complete FSA was issued by Fichtner (technical advisors for FSA) on 1 August 2012. The biodegradation results were encouraging and exceeded the requirements of the Waste PFI Contract. The results ranged from 69.3% - 83.3%.

A formal low key signing-off ceremony has been scheduled for 1 October 2012. Work relating to the business strategy, agreed by the PFI Delivery Board on 16 July is progressing and further updates will be provided to PFI Delivery Board at the next meeting on 1 October 2012. Work is ongoing with RECAP partners to build a business case around an advanced waste partnership that will align collection and disposal services.

Street Lighting PFI

Maintenance performance has remained at 99% of columns in light. A new communication and consultation strategy has been put in place by the Service Provider, but there are still some performance issues that are currently being addressed to improve the process further.

Shaw Trust Accreditation for the Council's website

The Council's website www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk has achieved Shaw Trust Accreditation. The Shaw Trust is an independent body that assesses websites for their accessibility. As a public body, it is very important that we comply with accessibility guidelines for several reasons, including complying with the Equality Act. This achievement helps to demonstrate that we care about all website users including those with disabilities and want to make sure they have, as near as possible, the same online experience as any other users.

ShapeYourPlace Huntingdonshire

ShapeYourPlace was launched in Huntingdonshire on Wednesday, 15 August at Huntingdon Market. We were joined by HDC, the Police and the Fire Service as the key partners involved in the project. ShapeYourPlace now has an established audience in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire with over 40,000 unique visitors having viewed the site since the project's launch in October 2010 helping to generate local campaigns, debates and conversations. Between 50 and 60 per cent have returned generating 100,000s of page views. It provides an excellent opportunity to promote services and initiatives and to engage with local audiences.

Community Hubs

The Community Hubs programme continues to develop. Nine locations have now been designated as hubs across the County and a celebration event was held at Ramsey in August. The priority locations in the coming months will be those whereby there are significant redevelopment opportunities, e.g. Barnwell Road, Cambridge and Sawston, or where we would like to pilot new ways of working, e.g. Chatteris.

Migrant Workers Network - Health & Wellbeing Special Consultation

The Migrants Workers Network had enabled the production of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Migration in Cambridgeshire to 2012. This activity needs to be refreshed and is now being linked to the structures emerging as part of the major changes to the Health Service in England, including the recent establishment of Health and Wellbeing Boards and the dissolution of the PCTs. The Health and Wellbeing Board in Cambridgeshire has produced a draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Board is consulting on its contents. We are holding a special event focussing on the needs of our new arrival communities on Thursday 13th September from 10.00 to 12.00 at the Boathouse Business Centre, Wisbech.

Central Library – Storm Damage

Cambridge Central Library is now open for normal business following the extreme weather on Saturday afternoon 25 August which forced the closure of the library. We assessed the damage and cleaned the public areas throughout the building. This involved checking and moving stock, drying out carpets and looking at the safety of issues such as the electrics in the building. We were able to open the first floor of the library on the Tuesday morning (after the bank holiday) for customers to issue, return and renew items of stock, collect their requests and use the self service machines. On Wednesday, the lifts were back in action and access allowed to all three floors. There were some areas on the second and third floors which were cordoned off, as they were the worst affected and will require a deep clean.

We would again like to thank all those members of the public who helped on Saturday. Their efforts, along with those of the library staff, ensured that the vast majority of our materials were unaffected by the water and they deserve all the praise which has been heaped upon them. Members of the public can as an alternative, use [online services](#) to renew, search for or hold items.

Registration Service: Stock and Security Review

The Local Government Delivery and Partnership Unit of the Home Office Identity and Passport Service recently undertook a Stock and Security Review of Cambridgeshire Registration Service. The review involved an examination of the security arrangements around the receipt, storage and use of stock. This is particularly important given the high 'black market' value of some of the documents held. The report on the outcome of the review has been received and contains a number of positive comments about local practice. Robust systems for recording and filing spoilt certificates were found to be in place and this was observed as being uniformly followed across the county. In summary the report concludes that stock is being effectively managed and because of this it is pleasing to report that risk of loss is considered to be minimal.

Registration Service: Chilford Hall

Earlier in the year a 16th century barn at one of Cambridgeshire's most popular ceremony venues, Chilford Hall, was destroyed by fire. The Registration Service has received a number of compliments for the work it has done to help couples who had ceremonies booked at the Hall to find appropriate alternative arrangements. The owners of Chilford Hall have also praised staff for the efficiency with which steps were taken to enable them to establish temporary licensed arrangements which can cope with larger parties.

Registration Service: Change of Ceremony Times

In response to the announcement that the current restrictions on the time that a marriage ceremony or civil partnership registration can take place will be removed from October 1 2012, consultation has been taking place with staff, customers and service partners to gauge potential interest in any change. From that date, registration Authorities will have the option to offer ceremonies at times outside the current window of 8am to 6pm. Preliminary feedback from a customer survey indicates there is little interest in ceremonies outside current hours. A decision on whether to make any changes to current practice will be taken later in the year, taking into account a range of factors, including customer feedback.

Democratic and Members' Services: Register of Interests

Council adopted a new Members' Code of Conduct at its meeting on 17 July 2012. This reflected changes introduced by the Localism Act which had an impact on the Code of Conduct itself, the nature of interests and the way in which the whole system was regulated. In line with the new arrangements all Members have been asked to complete a new Declaration of Interests and these, along with any declarations of gifts and hospitality received will be published on the Council's website and will be available for public inspection at Shire Hall, Cambridge.

CCC energy consumption 2011- 12

Figures for energy consumption in CCC buildings (including schools) in 2011/12 show a 12% drop from the previous year. The decrease is a result of several factors including a relatively mild winter compared to the previous year. However efforts by the Energy Management Team to implement energy efficiency improvements such as the refurbishment of the Shire Hall Octagon, and the installation of insulation, boiler and heating controls and LED lighting at various locations have all contributed towards the improvement. Improved data accuracy and data collation processes, for example through the rollout of Automated Meter Reading, have further made an impact.

2011-12 was the first year for which CCC was required to purchase carbon allowances for each tonne of carbon dioxide emitted under the Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme (CRC EES). The exact cost was £445,464. As schools make up 82% of the total carbon emissions, £365,310 will be charged to them from their allocation, including academies.

There has recently been a consultation about the future of the CRC EES the results from which have not yet been published, but Government appears committed to some sort of carbon tax long term. Over the last 4 years there has been an overall decrease in consumption of approximately 3% each year. However, rising energy prices mean that total spend on energy has not followed the same trend with more than £7 million spent on fuel across all CCC buildings (including schools) in 2011-12.

Make way for Windows 7 and Office 2010

We will soon be waving goodbye to our current version of Windows and Microsoft Office to makeway for Windows 7 and Office 2010. In preparation, the IT Service has been busy creating a Windows 7 'build' that works with all our security settings and with the multiple software applications that we use in CCC. Work is currently in the testing phase but once this is complete we will plan the roll-out. Part of the project will involve, where possible, upgrading and rationalising some of the software that we use and in a few cases moving to more cost effective alternatives.

As you can imagine, migrating 4500 users is no small task but we hope to start with the first test teams during the autumn, followed by a phased roll-out over subsequent months. Although many of you will already be familiar with Office 2010, for others, it will be a new and quite different experience to using our current version of Office. To help with the transition, we will be making online training materials available and will provide support to teams as they are migrated. We will be contacting teams well before they are due to be migrated and will be liaising with key users to finalise.

John Reynolds
September 2012